

HOW GLOBAL DIGNITY IMPACTS THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS



TABLE OF CONTENTS

1. Executive Summary | Pages 1-3
2. Global Dignity: What We Do | Page 4
3. The Sustainable Development Goals | Page 5
4. Measuring Global Dignity's SDG Footprint: A Global Self-Assessment | Page 6
 - 4.1 Global Dignity and the SDGs: Exploring the Link Qualitatively | Page 7
 - 4.2 The Global Dignity SDG Footprint: A Quantitative Self-Assessment | Pages 8-9
5. Global Dignity's SDG Impact Stories | Pages 10-15
6. Appendix: SDG Targets Impacted Most Frequently | Pages 17-20

**WHEN WE ACHIEVE HUMAN RIGHTS AND HUMAN DIGNITY FOR ALL PEOPLE —
THEY WILL BUILD A PEACEFUL, SUSTAINABLE AND JUST WORLD.**

ANTÓNIO GUTERRES | UNITED NATIONS SECRETARY-GENERAL
UNITED NATIONS DAY, 2017

1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In 2015, the United Nations General Assembly adopted the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), setting its member states on a path to meet the world's societal, economic and environmental challenges by 2030.

Through its numerous initiatives around the globe, the international non-profit organization Global Dignity actively contributes to the SDG agenda. The organization created a SDG Task Force to assess its collective impact on the 17 SDGs. An organization-wide analysis was conducted to determine the link between Global Dignity's activities and the SDGs—both qualitatively and quantitatively.

DIGNITY AND ACHIEVING THE SDGs: AN INEXTRICABLE LINK

A qualitative assessment led to the key insight that **dignity has always been at the heart of the SDG agenda.**

Ban Ki-moon, who served as the United Nations Secretary General during the run-up to and adoption of the SDGs, highlighted this intention repeatedly, including in the 2013 United Nations Report of the Secretary-General in which he voiced the hope that "in keeping with United Nations principles, this post-2015 framework can bring together the full range of human aspirations and needs to ensure a life of dignity for all."

And indeed, the United Nations resolution (2015) that ruled the adoption of the SDGs said: "Recognizing that the dignity of the human person is fundamental, we wish to see the Goals and targets met for all nations and peoples and for all segments of society."

Although the word "dignity" is absent from the descriptions of the 17 SDGs and their underlying 169 targets, Global Dignity's SDG Task Force concluded that dignity is instead the overarching ethical framework around, and embedded within, the SDGs.

Thus, achieving dignity and achieving the SDGs are equivalent, inextricable concepts. Furthermore, it was found that given its strong focus on promoting dignity around the world, Global Dignity is well-positioned to stress the SDGs' shared cause: achieving a life of dignity for all.

ASSESSING GLOBAL DIGNITY'S SDG IMPACT

For the quantitative assessment, an SDG self-assessment survey was developed. In 2020, leaders from 30 Global Dignity Country Chapters and Partner Organizations participated in the survey, creating a representative database on Global Dignity's SDG-related activities. Leaders were asked to consider how their activities correspond to the 17 SDGs as well as their underlying 169 SDG targets and 231 SDG indicators. From each self-assessment, a national "SDG footprint" was then derived from the relative distributions of impacts across the 17 SDGs. **Eventually, an aggregate and representative Global Dignity-wide SDG footprint was estimated.**

1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY (CONTINUED)

A FOCUS ON EDUCATION

While the survey found that Global Dignity’s activities positively affect almost all 17 SDGs, the Global Dignity SDG footprint reveals that the organization has **the strongest impact on SDG number 4 “Quality Education,” to which almost 40% of activities are attributed.** This finding reflects the focus on dignity education—promoting greater inclusion, equality, justice and peace—that is at the heart of the work of the majority of Global Dignity's leaders.

SDG number 5 “Gender Equality” is positively impacted the second-most (16%), followed by the SDGs number 16 “Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions,” number 1 “No Poverty” and number 3 “Good Health and Well-Being.”

DIGNITY AND THE SDGs IN ACTION

Although achieving the SDG agenda certainly requires the commitment of the United Nations member states, **a broad range of stakeholders including civil societies, the private sector and non-governmental organizations such as Global Dignity are also critical to achieving the SDGs.**

This report concludes by presenting **five examples of Global Dignity's on-the-ground work that actively contributes to advancing the SDG agenda.** The report appendix provides a more detailed account of the targets underlying the 17 SDGs upon which Global Dignity's leaders frequently found their work makes the strongest impact.

GLOBAL DIGNITY'S OBJECTIVE

While Global Dignity’s leaders intuitively knew of the alignment between their dignity-focused work and the SDGs, the organization wished to substantiate its links to and impact on the SDG agenda.

The objectives of the SDG Task Force and organization-wide analysis were three-fold:

- to educate and engage Global Dignity's diverse leadership to more deeply understand the SDG goals and targets;
- to offer a tool through which Global Dignity's leaders can assess how their work aligns to and supports the SDG agenda;
- and finally, for Global Dignity to more fully understand its collective impact on the SDGs, and gather insights on ways to create more momentum around the Goals that most align to the organization's mission.

1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY (CONTINUED)

A COLLECTIVE AND GLOBAL EFFORT

The assessment was led by Dr. Jörg Leib, a member of Global Dignity's International Council of Advisors as well as the founder of YOUinConsulting.com, a current independent management adviser and former McKinsey consultant. During his academic career, Jörg obtained a PhD in climate change economics from Imperial College London and previously focused on sustainable growth economics.

The Task Force's work was passionately championed and strongly supported by former Global Dignity Executive Director and current Senior Advisor Cynthia Guyer. This assessment drew on the SDG Task Force members' support and could not have been conducted without the active participation of 30 Global Dignity leaders from around the world in the SDG self-assessment survey, to whom we direct our words of gratitude.

Dr. Jörg Leib
Chair, Global Dignity SDG Task Force
Global Dignity International Council of Advisors

Alanna O'Donnell
Home Office Director, Global Dignity

2. GLOBAL DIGNITY: WHAT WE DO



Global Dignity teaches and celebrates the concept of dignity—every person's equal and inherent value—to promote **inclusion, equality and a greater sense of our shared humanity.**

The organization was co-founded in 2006 by three Young Global Leaders at the World Economic Forum: Crown Prince Haakon of Norway; author and philosopher Pekka Himanen; and John Bryant, CEO and Founder of Operation HOPE.

Global Dignity's work is implemented through a network of exceptional volunteer leaders from over 80 nations. **Through a wide variety of dignity education initiatives, these leaders have engaged over 3.4 million children and young people in understanding the powerful concept of dignity,** working within schools, community-based youth organizations, refugee camps, and now virtually.

The organization's newest program, Dignity in the Workplace, helps deepen employees' understanding of dignity in order to improve workplace culture and meaningfully contribute to companies' social responsibility efforts.

Global Dignity's Honorary Board includes Archbishop Desmond Tutu, Sir Richard Branson, Amartya Sen, the Right Honourable Michaëlle Jean, and Ambassador Andrew Young.

3. THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

In 2015, the United Nations General Assembly adopted a set of **17 universal, time-bound goals to, by 2030, meet the societal, economic and environmental challenges the world is facing: the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)**. The SDGs succeed the United Nations Millenium Development Goals (2000-15).

While not legally binding, the United Nations member states are expected to take ownership and develop national policies for achieving the 17 SDGs. **A broad coalition of stakeholders which includes governments, civil societies, the private sector and non-governmental organizations such as Global Dignity, is critical in achieving the SDG agenda.**

Yet the United Nations warns that there remains much work to be done to protect the planet and ensure prosperity for all within the next decade—particularly after the devastating effects of COVID-19. Annual reports evaluating the world’s progress on the SDG agenda can be obtained from sdgindex.org.

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS



The 17 Sustainable Development Goals

4. MEASURING GLOBAL DIGNITY'S SDG FOOTPRINT: A GLOBAL SELF-ASSESSMENT



While Global Dignity's mission has always been well-aligned with the SDGs, the organization wished to officially assess its links with and its impact on the SDG agenda.

To do so, an SDG Task Force comprised of Global Dignity Country Chapter and Partner Organization leaders was created. In 2020, the Task Force commissioned an organization-wide SDG self-assessment split into two components:

- I) A **qualitative assessment** to explore the link between Global Dignity and the SDGs, conceptually
- II) A **quantitative assessment** to analyze Global Dignity's impact on the SDG agenda and to derive the Global Dignity-wide SDG footprint

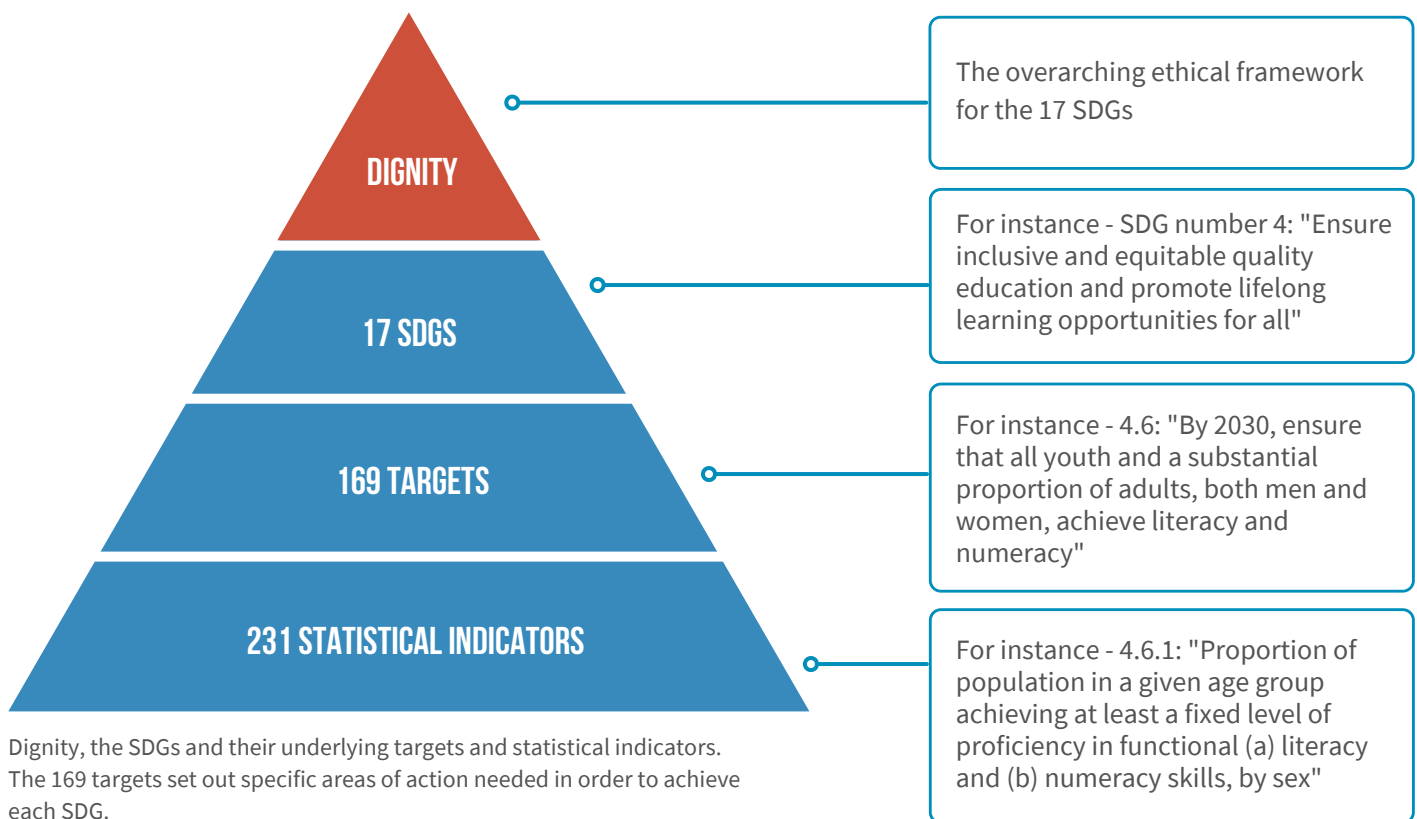
4.1 GLOBAL DIGNITY AND THE SDGs: EXPLORING THE LINK QUALITATIVELY

A qualitative literature review revealed that **dignity has always been at the heart of the SDG agenda**. The United Nations resolution (2015) that ruled the adoption of the SDGs said: "Recognizing that the dignity of the human person is fundamental, we wish to see the Goals and targets met for all nations and peoples and for all segments of society."

Ban Ki-moon, who served as the United Nations Secretary General during the run-up to and adoption of the SDGs, highlighted this intention repeatedly and prominently. For instance, he authored United Nations publications on the emerging SDG agenda with titles such as "The road to dignity by 2030: ending poverty, transforming all lives and protecting the planet" (2014). In another United Nations Report of the Secretary-General (2013), Ban Ki-moon voiced the hope that "in keeping with United Nations principles, this post-2015 framework can bring together the full range of human aspirations and needs to ensure a life of dignity for all."

Notably, the word "dignity" is absent from the descriptions of the 17 SDGs and their underlying 169 targets as adopted in the United Nations resolution (2015). The SDG Task Force concluded that this is the case because **the 17 SDGs have been carefully embedded in the overarching ethical framework around which they had been designed: dignity. Thus, achieving dignity and achieving the SDGs are equivalent, inextricable concepts.**

Given its strong focus on promoting dignity around the world, Global Dignity is well-positioned to stress the SDGs' shared cause: achieving a life of dignity for all.



4.2 THE GLOBAL DIGNITY SDG FOOTPRINT: A QUANTITATIVE SELF-ASSESSMENT

METHODOLOGY

In order to substantiate the intuitive and conceptual link between Global Dignity's activities and the SDGs, an SDG self-assessment survey was developed.

After a successful pilot was conducted with the Global Dignity leaders represented in the SDG Task Force, the survey was rolled out across the entire organization. In 2020, 30 Country Chapter and Partner Organization leaders participated in the SDG self-assessment survey.

Leaders were asked to consider how their ongoing Global Dignity initiatives correspond to the SDGs. **In order to gather the most accurate evaluations possible, each leader was asked to go beyond the broad 17 SDGs and instead assess their work in relation to the underlying lists of 169 SDG targets and 231 SDG indicators.**

Leaders were asked to rank the impact their Global Dignity activities have on the indicators on a scale from 0 (no impact) to 3 (moving the needle at a national scale).

After submission of the self-assessment results, an individual "SDG footprint" was first derived for each of the 30 participating Global Dignity leaders. These individual SDG footprints were derived from the relative distribution of impacts across the 17 SDGs as per the leader's self-assessment.

Next, a non-weighted average of the 30 individual SDG footprints was taken in order to estimate the aggregate Global Dignity-wide SDG footprint. This approach was preferred over population-weighted approaches in order to ensure that the activities of each Global Dignity leader has equal weight in determining the organization's SDG profile.

Due to the ongoing coronavirus crisis, the study was managed completely remotely. A benefit to all who participated in this organization-wide effort was the opportunity for self-education about the SDGs through participation in the survey. After participating, many leaders reported that they had improved their knowledge of the SDGs and felt proud when connecting their local Global Dignity activities to the global SDGs effort.

4.2 THE GLOBAL DIGNITY SDG FOOTPRINT: A QUANTITATIVE SELF-ASSESSMENT (CONTINUED)

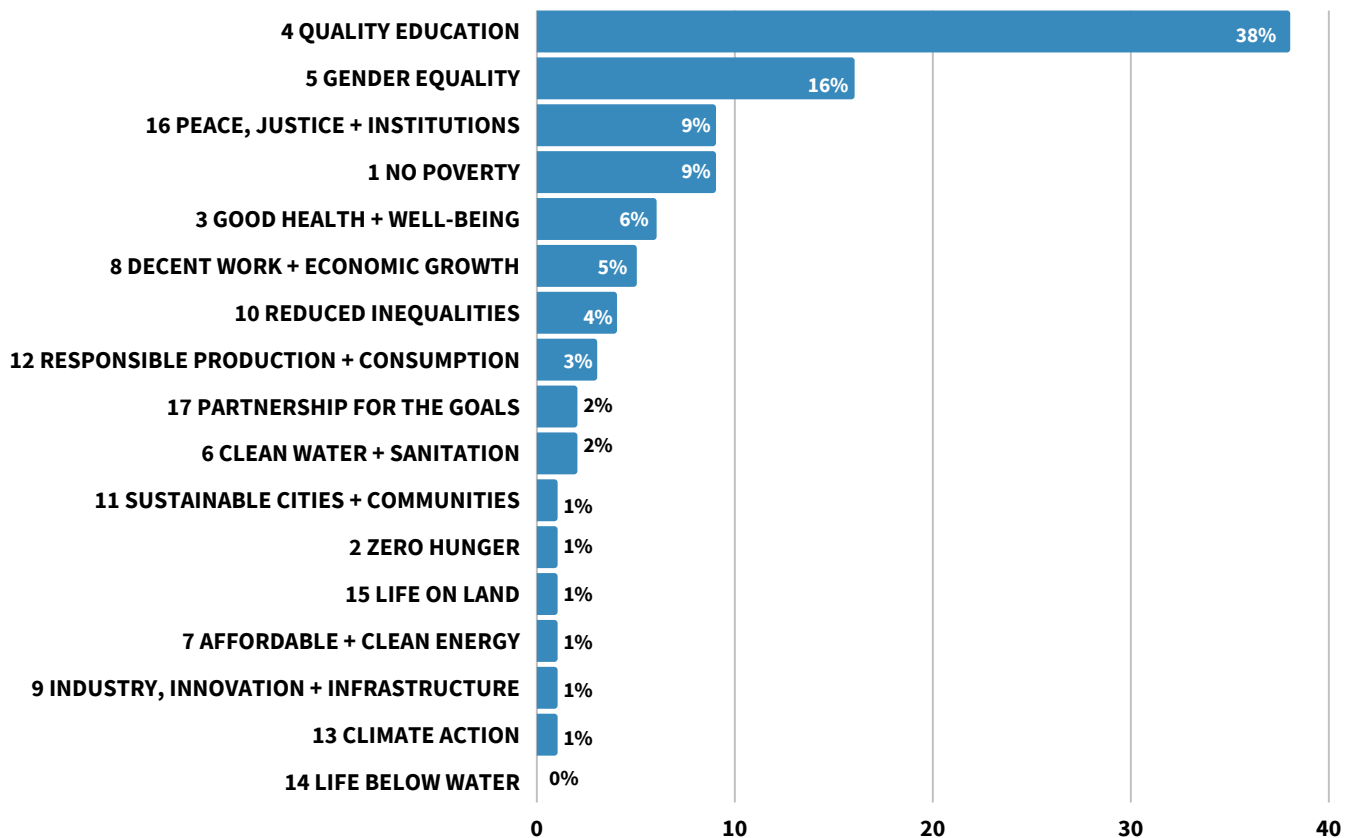
FINDINGS

The survey found that **Global Dignity’s activities positively affect almost all 17 SDGs, with the strongest impact on SDG number 4 “Quality Education,”** to which almost 40% of activities are attributed.

SDG number 5 “Gender Equality” is positively impacted the second-most (16%). Both the SDGs number 16 “Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions” and number 1 “No Poverty” were found to receive almost 10% each of the total impact scores. They are followed by the fifth-ranking SDG number 3 “Good Health and Well-Being” (6%). While some Global Dignity leaders’ initiatives impact the environmental SDGs, they play a less significant role for the organization as a whole.

Overall, these results match the intuition of Global Dignity’s leadership: that the organization’s primary impact is on improving Quality Education, Gender Equality and Peace, Justice and Institutions. However, the survey also revealed some surprises such as the breadth of some leaders’ impact across the 17 SDGs.

THE GLOBAL DIGNITY-WIDE SDG FOOTPRINT



5. GLOBAL DIGNITY'S SDG IMPACT STORIES



In the following pages we highlight four Global Dignity Country Chapters and one Partner Organization whose activities positively impact the SDG agenda in a wide variety of ways: Global Dignity Niger, Global Dignity Ukraine, Global Dignity Afghanistan, Global Dignity Nepal and Beaconhouse Schools (Pakistan). We also present their individual SDG footprints as determined from the survey.



Niger



Ukraine



Afghanistan



Nepal



Pakistan

Individual SDG footprints for all participating Country Chapters and Partner Organizations are available upon request.



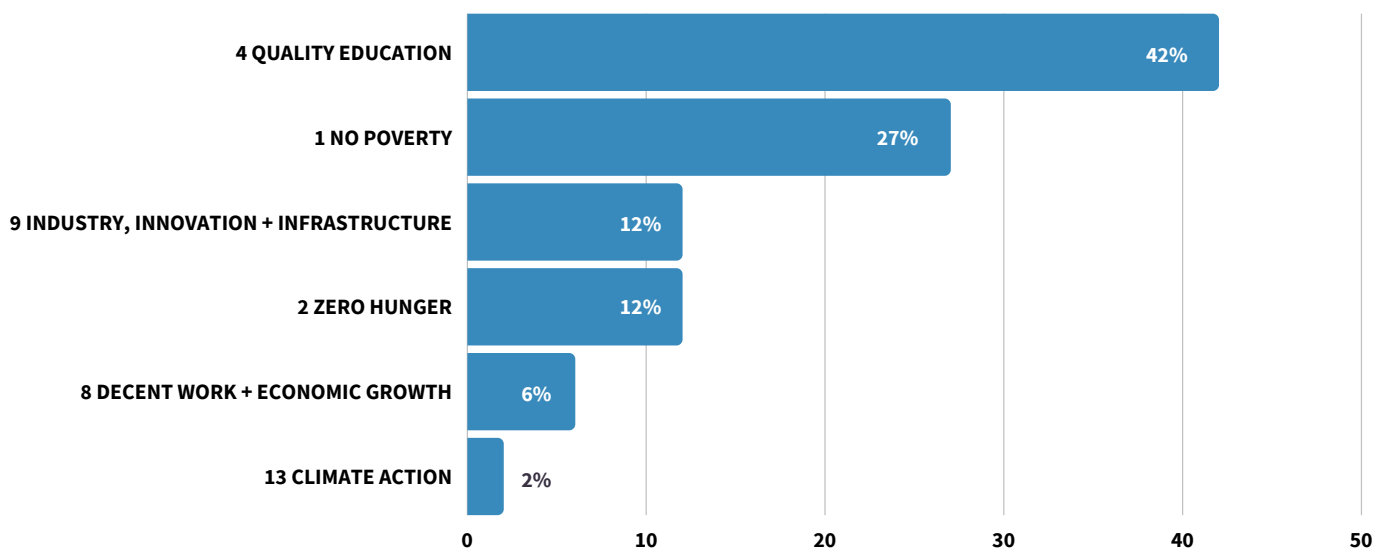
GLOBAL DIGNITY NIGER

Niger is one of the poorest countries on Earth. Global Dignity Country Chair for Niger, Kader Kaneye, co-founded the African Development University (A.D.U.) to address the dearth of quality tertiary educational institutions and prepare the nation's young adults for the 21st century workforce.

KEY INITIATIVES:

- A.D.U.'s International Development course provides students with an **understanding of international development policies** and their intersection with humanitarian assistance, technology, innovation, entrepreneurship, energy and engineering, commercial law and education, and development sector career opportunities.
- A.D.U.'s computer lab provides **access to technology**—a rarity in Niger—to connect thousands of students with professors, peers and knowledge.
- In 2020, A.D.U. students began a **tree-planting campaign**. This initiative will result in the planting of 1,500 trees in one of the world's hottest countries. The tree-planting campaign marked the launch of what will become a public park with 40 local tree species.
- A.D.U. provides **food, hygiene essentials and disaster relief** to local communities.
- Through **partnerships with UNICEF, Ashesi University and TEDx**, A.D.U. students and young people from across Niger are encouraged to innovate, aspire, express themselves, consider new perspectives, test new ideas and take promising practices to scale.

GLOBAL DIGNITY NIGER'S SDG FOOTPRINT:





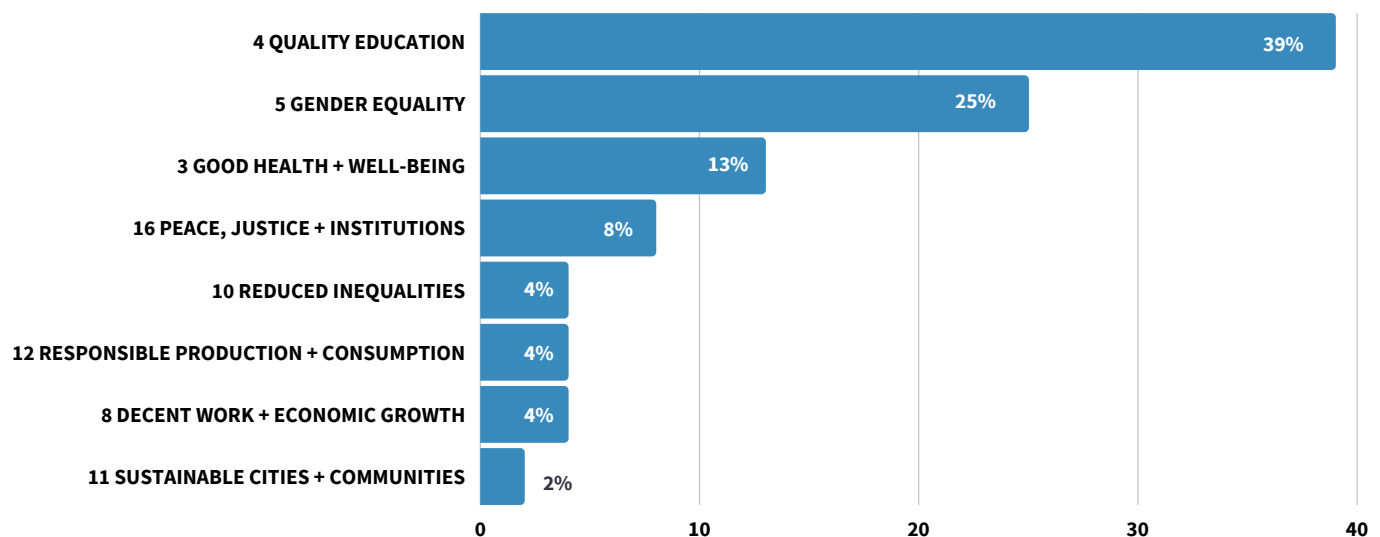
GLOBAL DIGNITY UKRAINE

Under the leadership of Oleksandr Elkin, the Head of Board of EdCamp Ukraine, Global Dignity Ukraine is a force for education reform and professional development.

KEY INITIATIVES:

- Hundreds of regional and national events provide **professional development for hundreds of thousands of educators.**
- Specially-designed sessions on the **integration of SDGs in school education** have been conducted at numerous regional EdCamp conferences.
- More than **84,000 participants across 707 Ukrainian schools took part in Global Dignity Day 2020.** The event was supported by the deputy Education Minister, the Children’s Rights Commissioner for the President of Ukraine, and the Education Ombudsman.
- In support of the New Ukrainian School reform, trainings for educators and textbook publishers address **school debureaucratization and antidiscrimination. Anti-corruption efforts** are supported through the #SchoolWithoutCorruption toolkit development and trainings.
- Emory University's **Social, Emotional, and Ethical Learning** program is being piloted by EdCamp Ukraine in 26 schools.
- EdCamp supports teachers to co-design SimSchool **simulation games on human rights** for use in schools.

GLOBAL DIGNITY UKRAINE'S SDG FOOTPRINT:





GLOBAL DIGNITY AFGHANISTAN

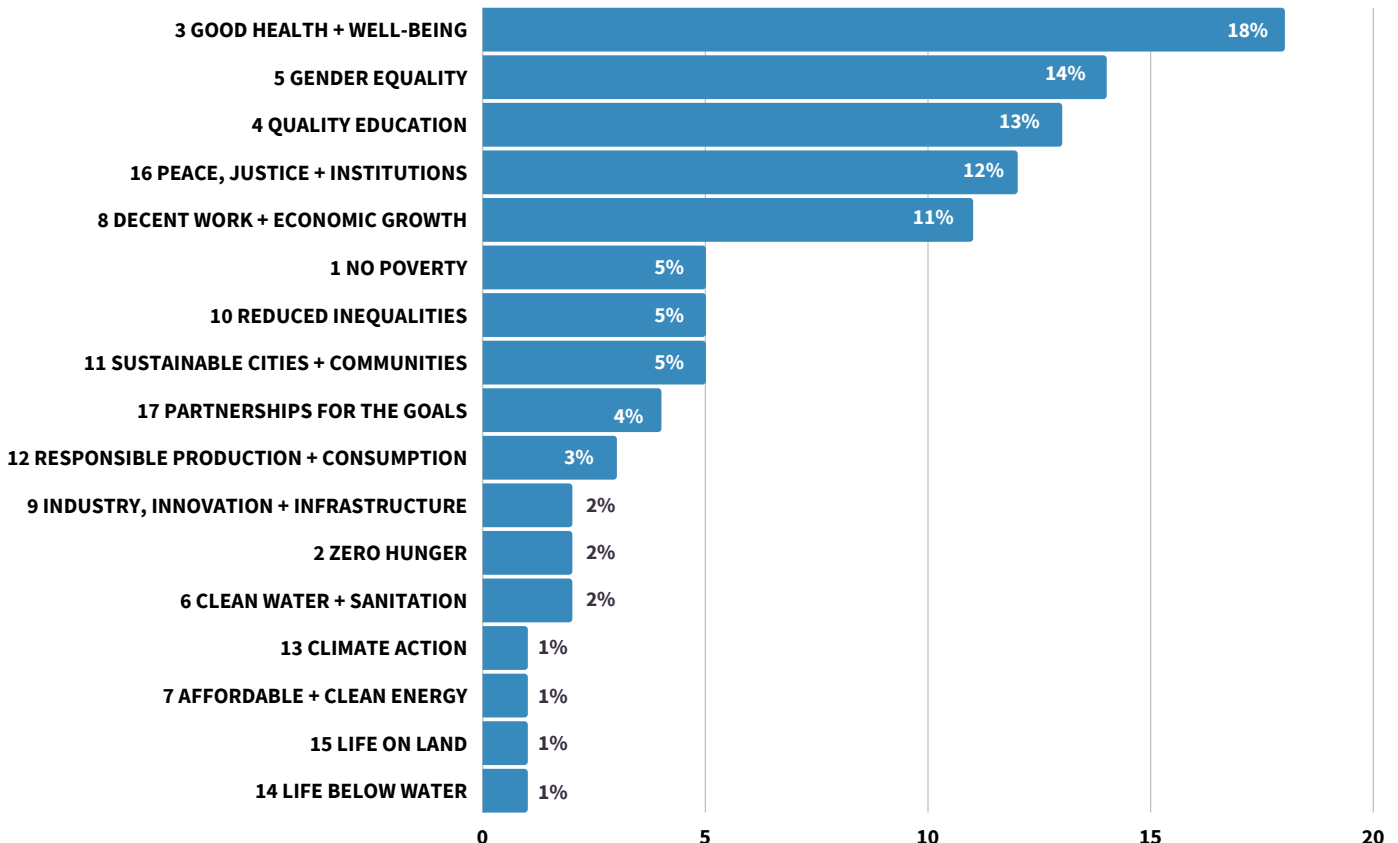
The School of Leadership, Afghanistan (SOLA) is the country's first and only boarding school for girls. SOLA's co-founder and president, Shabana Basij-Rasikh, serves as Global Dignity's Country Chair for Afghanistan.

Please note: The following reflects SOLA's initiatives and goals prior to the most recent Taliban takeover in Afghanistan. It is the Global Dignity community's sincerest hope that SOLA will continue its invaluable work.

KEY INITIATIVES:

- By 2022, SOLA aims to **educate girls from all 34 of Afghanistan's provinces**, representing all major ethnic groups.
- SOLA is recruiting a female **Afghan teaching staff** for its middle and high school, as well as training them to teach critical thinking and independent thought.
- Relationships with **regional schools and educators** will allow SOLA to expand its network and presence in the region. It will also provide SOLA students with a network of schools to apply to upon graduation.
- SOLA is in the process of **building a campus**.

GLOBAL DIGNITY AFGHANISTAN'S SDG FOOTPRINT:





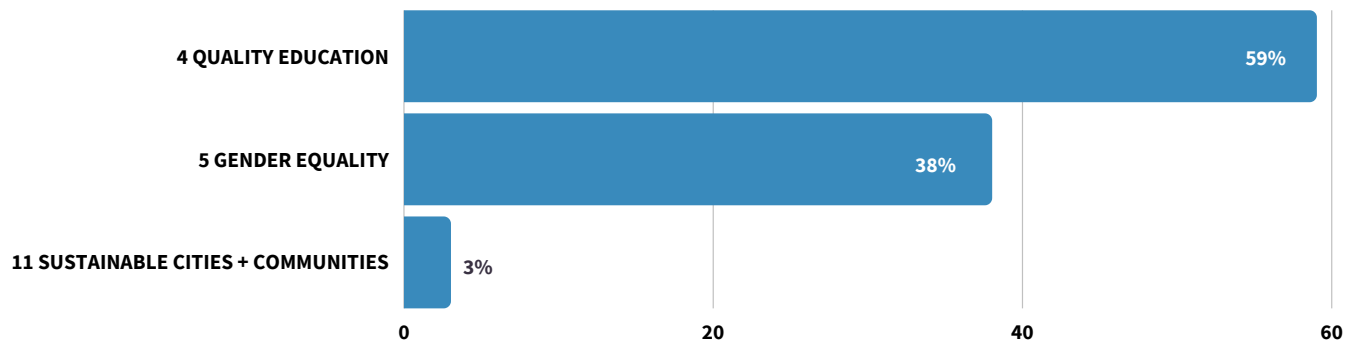
GLOBAL DIGNITY NEPAL

Global Dignity Nepal is led by Bhushan Dahal, Executive Director for Kids of Kathmandu. He oversees and coordinates the building of schools with modern infrastructure in severely underdeveloped and remote areas of Nepal.

KEY INITIATIVES:

- Since 2015, Kids of Kathmandu has **rebuilt eight schools across Nepal, serving 4,000 children**. Each school is equipped with critical infrastructure such as furniture, computer labs, libraries and water purification systems. Teacher training is also provided.
- **Professional development workshops** have been conducted with teachers across 40 schools and 5 municipalities, focused on integrating dignity into the classroom each day.
- **Dignity Workshops** are held each month with public school students in grades 8-10.
- Through an **online dignity awareness initiative**, diverse people were asked to reflect on: "What does dignity mean to you?" 14,000 people were reached.
- Global Dignity Nepal recently established a **prison library** in collaboration with the local and national government.

GLOBAL DIGNITY NEPAL'S SDG FOOTPRINT:





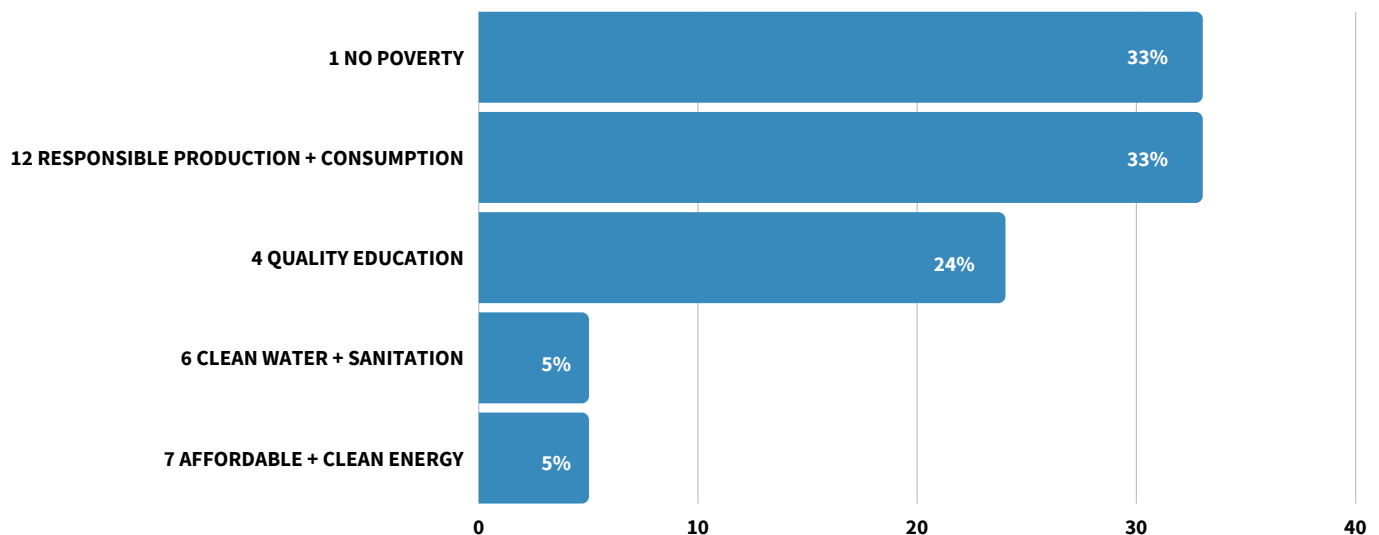
BEACONHOUSE SCHOOLS

Beaconhouse Schools, a long-time Global Dignity Partner Organization, educates hundreds of thousands of students in Pakistan, Malaysia, the Philippines, Thailand, Oman, and the United Arab Emirates. For the purpose of their SDG self-assessment, Beaconhouse focused on their activities in Pakistan.

KEY INITIATIVES:

- Dignity is a core value in the official **Beaconhouse curriculum** and all learning areas.
- In 2016, Beaconhouse assumed responsibility for 100 government primary schools in Punjab and Gujrat, impacting 20,000 students. Beaconhouse has since significantly invested in the **schools' infrastructure** including new classrooms, toilets, boundary walls and furniture.
- Through collaborations with NGOs, Beaconhouse provides **teacher training and capacity building programs** for public and non-profit schools.
- Thousands of annual merit scholarships allow **lower-income students** to benefit from a Beaconhouse education.
- Student-led **sustainability initiatives** include recycling, water conservation, tree plantation and litter drives. Since 2011, Beaconhouse has installed solar panels in schools, with the goal of providing them to every school across Pakistan. In addition to funding the panels, the organization also leads solar training for educators.
- Beaconhouse promotes **social entrepreneurship and consciousness** amongst young adults through projects focused on creating positive social impact while promoting student agency and voice.

BEACONHOUSE SCHOOLS' SDG FOOTPRINT:



**WE HAVE AN HISTORIC OPPORTUNITY AND DUTY TO ACT,
BOLDLY, VIGOROUSLY AND EXPEDITIOUSLY, TO TURN REALITY INTO
A LIFE OF DIGNITY FOR ALL, LEAVING NO ONE BEHIND.**

BAN KI-MOON | FORMER UNITED NATIONS SECRETARY-GENERAL

THE ROAD TO DIGNITY BY 2030, SYNTHESIS REPORT

6. APPENDIX: SDG TARGETS IMPACTED MOST FREQUENTLY

As noted earlier, the self-assessment was not carried out at the aggregate level of the 17 SDGs, but rather on the more detailed levels of the underlying 169 SDG targets and 231 SDG indicators. To increase transparency of the results, the following pages list **the SDG targets on which Global Dignity's activities make the strongest impact**, for the five highest-ranking SDGs in the survey.



For all 30 countries captured by this Global Dignity SDG Survey, the detailed analytical survey data on the Country Chapter/Partner Organization level can be made available upon request.

6. APPENDIX: SDG TARGETS IMPACTED MOST FREQUENTLY (CONTINUED)



SDG NUMBER 4: QUALITY EDUCATION

GLOBAL DIGNITY LEADERS' MOST FREQUENTLY IMPACTED TARGETS UNDERLYING SDG NUMBER 4:

4.1 By 2030, ensure that all girls and boys complete free, equitable and quality primary and secondary education leading to relevant and effective learning outcomes

4.5 By 2030, eliminate gender disparities in education and ensure equal access to all levels of education and vocational training for the vulnerable, including persons with disabilities, indigenous peoples and children in vulnerable situations

4.7 By 2030, ensure that all learners acquire the knowledge and skills needed to promote sustainable development, including, among others, through education for sustainable development and sustainable lifestyles, human rights, gender equality, promotion of a culture of peace and non-violence, global citizenship and appreciation of cultural diversity and of culture's contribution to sustainable development

4.a Build and upgrade education facilities that are child, disability and gender sensitive and provide safe, non-violent, inclusive and effective learning environments for all



SDG NUMBER 5: GENDER EQUALITY

GLOBAL DIGNITY LEADERS' MOST FREQUENTLY IMPACTED TARGETS UNDERLYING SDG NUMBER 5:

5.1 End all forms of discrimination against all women and girls everywhere

5.2 Eliminate all forms of violence against all women and girls in the public and private spheres, including trafficking and sexual and other types of exploitation

5.6 Ensure universal access to sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights as agreed in accordance with the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development and the Beijing Platform for Action and the outcome documents of their review conferences

6. APPENDIX: SDG TARGETS IMPACTED MOST FREQUENTLY (CONTINUED)



SDG NUMBER 16: PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS

GLOBAL DIGNITY LEADERS' MOST FREQUENTLY IMPACTED TARGETS UNDERLYING SDG NUMBER 16:

- 16.1 Significantly reduce all forms of violence and related death rates everywhere
- 16.2 End abuse, exploitation, trafficking and all forms of violence against and torture of children
- 16.5 Substantially reduce corruption and bribery in all their forms



SDG NUMBER 1: NO POVERTY

GLOBAL DIGNITY LEADERS' MOST FREQUENTLY IMPACTED TARGETS UNDERLYING SDG NUMBER 1:

- 1.1 By 2030, eradicate extreme poverty for all people everywhere, currently measured as people living on less than \$1.25 a day
- 1.3 Implement nationally appropriate social protection systems and measures for all, including floors, and by 2030 achieve substantial coverage of the poor and the vulnerable
- 1.4 By 2030, ensure that all men and women, in particular the poor and the vulnerable, have equal rights to economic resources, as well as access to basic services, ownership and control over land and other forms of property, inheritance, natural resources, appropriate new technology and financial services, including microfinance

6. APPENDIX: SDG TARGETS IMPACTED MOST FREQUENTLY (CONTINUED)



SDG NUMBER 3: GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING

GLOBAL DIGNITY LEADERS' MOST FREQUENTLY IMPACTED TARGETS UNDERLYING SDG NUMBER 3:

3.7 By 2030, ensure universal access to sexual and reproductive health-care services, including for family planning, information and education, and the integration of reproductive health into national strategies and programmes

3.8 Achieve universal health coverage, including financial risk protection, access to quality essential health-care services and access to safe, effective, quality and affordable essential medicines and vaccines for all

3.b Support the research and development of vaccines and medicines for the communicable and non-communicable diseases that primarily affect developing countries, provide access to affordable essential medicines and vaccines, in accordance with the Doha Declaration on the TRIPS Agreement and Public Health, which affirms the right of developing countries to use to the full the provisions in the Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights regarding flexibilities to protect public health, and, in particular, provide access to medicines for all

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